
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

User Focus Group #1: State Weather Information Needs

Weather Information for Surface Transportation

Breakout Session 1

State Weather Information Needs

Session 1 - Leadership

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Michael Adams, *Wisconsin DOT*
Dr. Wilfred Nixon, *Univ of Iowa*

Rapporteurs:

Ms. Cynthia Nelson, *OFCM*
Mr. Gary Nelson, *FHWA-Mitretek*

Session 1 - Key Results

- **Trigger Events**
 - Temperature within +/- 1 m of surface
 - Precipitation: snow, rain, ice storms
 - Wind: drifting, vehicle stability, visibility
 - Black ice
 - Visibility: fog, blowing dust, snow
- **Specifics/details**
 - Wide range of users, locations, sophistication
 - Continuous/area versus point forecast
 - Need to assess ranges of values

Session 1 - Key Results(2)

- **Standards/Formats**
 - Standardization important--coordinated by federal agencies
 - Standardization for both input and output--data and displays
 - Standard warning criteria across geopolitical boundaries
 - Data gathering and collections - public, open, free

E.g., GIS, ITS, weather data formats, common communication formats.

Session 1 - Key Results(3)

- **Other**
 - Liability and believability
 - More observations, finer resolution (water, land; buoys, pavement sensors, mobile, etc.)
 - Training and certification for users
 - Post storm verification
 - Cost-benefit analysis
 - Shared infrastructure
 - Fusion of traffic and weather information
 - Operational coordination of maintenance and management
 - Technology transfer

User Focus Group #2:

Local Rural/Urban (Metro Traffic and Transit) Weather Information Needs

Weather Information for Surface Transportation

Breakout Session 2

Local Rural/Urban (Metro Traffic and Transit) Weather Information Needs

Session 2 - Leadership

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Douglas Jonas, *Matrix
Management Group*
Mr. Edward Boselly, *Weather
Solutions, Inc.*

Rapporteurs:

Mr. James Harrison, *OFCM*
Mr. Floyd Hauth, *STC*

Session 2 - Key Results

- Lead time is important consideration; amount of lead time varies with application and operational environment
- There appears to be a need to understand the utility of tailored forecasts in lieu of multiple sources of non-specific weather information
- The observation network is insufficient to meet the needs of the surface transportation community

Session 2 - Key Results(2)

- There is a need for forecast of small-scale features to describe highly localized conditions such as fog
- The placement of decision making is different among the various modes of transportation, and requires recognition by weather information providers
- Forecasts of good weather are also valuable to the decision makers

User Focus Group #3:
Professional and Trade Organizations Weather Information Needs

Weather Information for Surface Transportation

Breakout Session 3

*Professional Associations
and Trade Organizations
Weather Information Needs*

Session 3 - Leadership

Chair: Mr. Kevin Hiett, AAA

Rapporteurs: Mr. Thomas Piwowar, STC
Mr. Thomas Fraim, OFCM

Session 3 - Key Results

- Need NWS product catalog
- Need weather information product education and training for operators - leads to credibility
- Place list of requirements factors on web site - as interim measure
- Keep requirements questionnaire on web site
- Recognize that requirements process is iterative

Session 3 - Key Results

List of Requirements Factors

- Needs/Requirements: Need to be identified and refined
- Comprehensive/Breadth - focus on major requirements
- Recognize geographic location dependence
- Keep in mind the vehicle type/infrastructure object of interest
- Independence of implementation
- Decision criteria
 - Define thresholds: fixed and varying
 - Relevance

Session 3 - Key Results

List of Requirements Factors (cont'd)

- **Lead time and updates (real time)**
- **Accuracy and credibility**
- **Accessibility**
 - Readability
 - Dissemination
 - Availability
 - Reliability